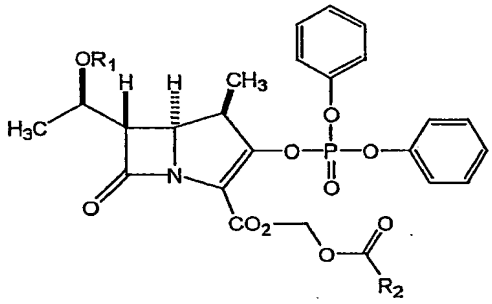
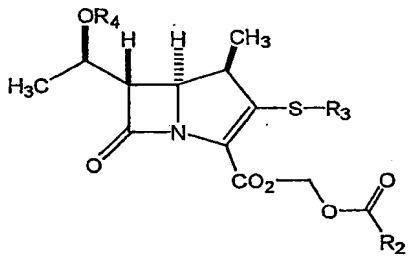
ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a process for efficiently producing a 1β-methylcarbapenem compound for oral administration. The process, which is for producing a 1β-methylcarbapenem compound represented by general formula (2), is characterized by reacting a β-lactam compound represented by general formula (1) as a starting material with a thiol compound (R_3-SH) in the presence of a base and optionally eliminating the protective group R_1.



(1)



(2)

In the formulae (1) and (2), R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group; R_2 denotes an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms; R_3 denotes an organic group; and R_4 denotes hydrogen, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group.